



PARK BELL

ST. MARY'S PARK IMPROVEMENT CLUB

Greetings Friends & Neighbors! ¡Bienvenidos! Mabuhay! Bon Giorno! 您好

July, 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been a busy month for the Club. The dog park has been approved by the Recreation & Parks Commission. The Board of Supervisors has declined to approve the liquor license transfer for the Everest Market. The Postal Service has assigned a new permanent carrier to our route. The garage sale was a bargain-hunter's delight. As you read this, Benton Island is being renovated. All these things happen because we made them happen. We've got an organized Club and the Club's Executive Committee is committed to meeting the very diverse needs of our community. This neighborhood is fortunate to have so many dedicated individuals. Every volunteer is making a real difference.

I want to take a moment to publicly thank three important volunteers, two of which are taking a break from their volunteer duties. Brendon and Jeffrey Milla have been mowing and maintaining the island turf for about 7 years. They deserve our heartfelt gratitude for their blood, sweat and tears. Brendon is taking on other community service duties, working at the Martin DePores soup kitchen. Jeffrey is taking a much-deserved break. Our third hero is Joe Guinasso. Joe is the magician who keeps our island irrigation system flowing. Trust me, that is a major feat and we hope he uses his magic for us for years to come. Thank you Brendon, Jeffrey and Joe.



Jonna Ramey

President's Garden Awards

This month I want to give an award to three homes that together, one next to the other, present the very best of turf, large plantings, and maintenance. 40 Justin, 30 Justin and 301 College together present a beautiful trio of lawns, shrubs, trees and color. Helen Lopez and Marlo Contreras make 40 Justin sparkle. Max Valdovinos, a professional gardener, helps Arturo Martinez bring out the green in his yard at 30 Justin and Graham Beaumont at 301 College. Thank you all.



Date Set for Annual Picnic

The Club Executive Board has set Sunday, September 20th for our annual Fall Picnic. We hope to have great food, games for kids and adults, a cake walk, raffle, plant exchange and more. Want to help organize the picnic? Come to a kick-off picnic committee meeting at 21 Agnon, July 27th at 7:30 PM. See you there!



July 14th Meeting Highlights

- The Club will honor the volunteerism of Brendon & Jeffrey Milla, and Joe Guinasso.
- Marianne Bertuccelli of the Rec. & Parks Dept. will speak about gardening in the Park and update us on the dog park schedule.
- Lois DeCastro will give a brief presentation about Herbalife products and will give some items away in the raffle.
- Jonna Ramey & Erik Poole will discuss the Benton Island renovation and the islands in general.
- Kristie Dinelli will supply refreshments.



Park Renovation Committee Update

The St. Mary's Park Improvement Club has formed a Park Renovation Committee. The mission of the committee is:

"To develop a clean, safe, stimulating recreational environment for our children. This accomplishment would, in turn, allow the residents of the area the opportunity to further interact resulting in the strengthening of our community."

The primary focus of the committee will be to develop a strategy for redeveloping and updating the children's playground. The committee, has held two meetings and completed a walk-through evaluation of the condition of the park. The committee is currently in phase one of their plan, fact finding. Members of the committee are interviewing others who have already completed successful renovation plans for playgrounds to gather information. If you would like to get involved with the Committee, please contact Louisa Fossett at 334-7133.

Extend Liquor License Moratorium

In December, the temporary moratorium on new liquor licenses for the Mission district will end. It's been a real success and we'd like it to be extended. We want the area covered to be extended, as well. Currently, the boundary for the moratorium ends at Mission & Randall. We'd like it to be extended to Mission & Turnbull. Please take a moment to write a letter to Supervisor Leslie Katz, SF Board of Supervisors, 401 Van Ness Ave., Rm. 308, SF 94102 to tell her of your support for extending the new liquor license moratorium. You can e-mail her at leslie_katz@ci.sf.ca.us or fax at 554-5163.



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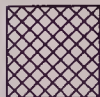
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Garage Sale Scores!

Thanks to some much needed sun and effective advertising, this year's garage sale was a great success. Bill Fossett, the garage sale chairman, was pleased with the event: "We had people from all over the City and the Bay Area show up ready to buy." Bill's daughter Torie made a handsome profit selling lemonade. Thanks go out to the over 25 participants and the organizing volunteers including Lois DeCastro, Louisa Fossett, Danna Peterson, Arturo Martinez and others. And, a special thanks to the City of Children charity who came by and picked up our donations.

Attention Music Lovers!

The world premiere of *San Francisco Camerata Americana*, the music of Latin America, will be Sunday, July 19, 5pm, at the Yerba Buena Center. They are the *only* professional orchestra in the U.S. devoted exclusively to performing music by Latin American composers. Best of all, their Music Director and Conductor is a Genebern neighbor, St. Mary's own José Luis Moscovich! If you'd like to spend an evening listening to this great music, call the Yerba Buena Box Office at (415) 978-ARTS for tickets.



GLEN PARK BOOKS Advertiser Profile

Jill Gasowski and Pat Cull, owners of Glen Park Books, started their business a little over 3 years ago and are happily providing books and service to our community. Both women had prior careers--Pat as a carpenter with the City for 21 years and Jill as a manager for Pacific Bell for 27 years.

The store is small, but Jill says they try and cater to the needs of our diverse community. They will help you find whatever kind of book you are looking for and gladly special order any book they don't happen to have. Speaking as a customer who has used this service, I know it works quickly and efficiently. Best of all, they know every book on their shelves, so when you shop there, you receive service unheard of at the bigger stores. Their friendly service makes for a very comfortable atmosphere and cuts down on the time needed to shop.

Jill and Pat offer a customer discount plan, as well as teacher discounts. Jill says she knows many of her customers by name and would love to get to know yours! Go visit them at Diamond and Chenery (see their ad on the advertiser page).



Important City Service Phone Numbers

	phone	Fax
Mayor		
Willie Brown	554-6141	554-6113
District Attorney		
Terrence Hallinan	553-1741	553-9054
Ingleside Police Captain		
Rick Bruce	553-1603	337-1773
Non-Emergency Police	553-0123	
Neighbor disputes	863-6100	
Domestic Violence	864-4722	
Graffiti Cleanup DPW	241-WASH	



Change in Island Maintenance

Whether we like it or not, the City has made no bones about the fact that the responsibility for maintaining the islands in St. Mary's Park falls to the St. Mary's Park Improvement Club. Along with this responsibility comes tremendous liability for the Club. What this means is that the Club and/or its officers could be sued by anyone construed as a paid employee if they were injured on the job. In order to properly maintain the islands, the Club would need to have both liability and workers compensation insurance. In order to do this, the Club would have to change its status and become some type of legal entity (like a non-profit corporation). After doing a careful cost analysis of these insurances and the management of a legal presence for the Club, it was determined that it was in the best interests of the Club (particularly financially) to hire an outside professional maintenance company that has all the necessary insurance.

The Island Committee presented the Executive Committee with 6 bids. After reviewing the issues, the Executive Committee has decided to hire Angie's Garden Service. Starting July 14, Angie's crew will mow and edge twice a month and weed and feed as necessary. Angie's crew will report directly to president Jonna Ramey. If you have any comments about their work, direct it to her at 285-7425.

In the past, we were paying volunteers about \$120/month for island maintenance. We will be paying Angie's Garden Service \$475/month. This bid was extremely competitive and we no longer have to worry about insurance issues or mowing equipment purchase and maintenance.

The Executive Committee and the Island Committee both hope you all will be pleased with the results and that we can count on your support to continue this service. Since the islands are currently in fair condition, it will take Angie's crew about 3 months before the islands start to look significantly better.



Help Support Benton Island Renovation

On July 11th, a work party of neighborhood volunteers, spruced up the Benton Island. Among the improvements; new boarders and redwood mulch around trees, a newly planted flower bed, weeding, clearing weeds around sprinkler heads, and reseeding damaged and uneven lawn areas. The renovation cost about \$600. The Club would like to encourage you to consider a donation towards defraying the cost of this project. Your support will allow the Club to plan future renovation projects. A donation of any amount is welcome. Make your check payable to SMPIC and write "for Benton Island" on the bottom. Mail your check to SMPIC, 2966 Diamond St., Suite 121, San Francisco, CA 94131 or bring your donation to the meeting on Tuesday, July 14th. The Club would also like to thank landscape architects Jay Thayer and Sarah Guttman for their invaluable design consultation and material calculations and Chris Montgomery from the Department of Public Works for her generosity in helping us with the renovation and handling of the trash disposal.

SMPIC Volunteer Appreciation

I trust by now you all know what a great neighborhood we live in. Not only are the neighbors friendly, the homes beautiful and the activities fun and plentiful, we also have some awesome kids in the neighborhood! These great young people help out in a variety of ways to improve life in St. Mary's Park and we thought we'd take a moment to acknowledge their contributions and thank them publicly.

First and foremost, there is Brendon Milla, who has been working on the grassy islands for 6-7 years. He's now 15 years old and when he started, he was too small to even push the lawn mower by himself! (Joe Guinasso helped him out). Brendon persevered though and has consistently shown up all these years. We hear so many negative things about today's youth and it's high time we highlight someone like Brendon, who has done so much for his community. While there is a rumor that even local police have noted and appreciated Brendon's work on the islands, he denies this. He will modestly admit that neighbors driving or walking by have stopped to thank him. Brendon says he has saved the money he has been given and is not sure how he will spend it. Judging from his history, I'm sure it will be well spent, whatever his eventual decision. As a neighborhood, Brendon, we'd like to send you a BIG thank you and wish you well in the years to come.

Another young volunteer in the neighborhood is Robert Lazzaretto. He is the person responsible for delivering the *Park Bell* to each and every home every month. Believe me, this is no small feat! He always does it timely, so all of us can get the information we need right before the monthly meeting. Robert, your consistency and dependability are very much appreciated -- Thank you!

Jeffrey Balderramos is another young man doing his part in the neighborhood. He also delivers flyers and newsletters when called upon. Without his spur of the moment help, SMPIC couldn't get the word out when it counts, so thanks, Jeffrey!

Max Waterstone is an eight year old who has helped out with garbage chores for some long-time Park residents when their health required it. While still young, he has shown himself to be helpful and reliable.

Finally, Will Aspelin has taken on the job of raising the St. Mary's Park flag. Also quite young, he enables the entire Park to enjoy seeing the flags flapping in the week-end breeze.

St. Mary's Park is greatly enhanced by all these young people and I think we can all feel a certain sense of pride and security knowing we have them in our midst

Runaway Garbage Cans??

On garbage days, do you come home to find your garbage can halfway down the street or worse, gone altogether?? Some neighbors have been having this problem and wanted to share their solution. If you put your address on the can AND the lid, then neighbors who find them can easily return them to to appropriate home. Another idea is to attach the lid to the can so they don't get separated.



IMPORTANT SMPIC DATES

July 14, 7:30 pm	Club meeting
July 16, 7pm	Park committee @ 100 Justin
July 27, 7:30 pm	Picnic committee @ 21 Agnon
Aug. 11, 7:30 pm	Club meeting
Sept. 8, 7:30 pm	Club meeting
Sept. 20, noon	Neighborhood Picnic
Oct. 13, 7:30 pm	Candidates night @ SMP



Watering Volunteers Needed

To keep the islands green, we need to water. The Club is looking for a few good folks to volunteer to water an island. Twice a week on a pre-arranged schedule, you'll water a specific island. We'll supply you with a pair of gloves, a watering key and a timer. It will take about a half an hour each watering session and you'll need to commit to watering for a year. We're also looking for people to volunteer as backup when our main waterers go on vacation. Please call Jonna Ramey at 285-7425 to volunteer.



Benton Island	Ethan Lucas (Need backup)
200 College Island	Need waterer & backup
300 College Island	Need waterer & backup
400 College Island	Guido Guinasso (Need backup)
500 College Island	Need waterer & backup
Foot of College Patches	Need waterer & backup
Justin Island	Need waterer & backup



SUNSHINE CORNER
By Armando Pulido

Welcome...

Let's roll out the red carpet to the newest members of the Park! We've got new neighbors at 419 College and 125 Murray and 39 Justin. There are many benefits to participating in the St. Mary's Park Improvement Club and we hope to see you all at the next meeting. It's a great opportunity to get to know your new neighbors.

Get Well...

Sending a speedy recovery to Claire Driscoll--hope everything is going well. Also, a get well wish goes to Florence Kolos--hope the foot is feeling better.

Thanks...

We would like to thank all the people who have been calling in with the latest news to make this Sunshine Corner a success. Please continue to let Armando know of any new neighbors, births, illnesses or recovering from surgery situations. We appreciate your help and can be reached at 239-4221.